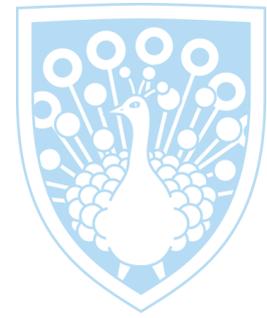




# Great Tew School Newsletter

## Issue 172

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2014



Dear parents,

## News from the Classrooms....

### Reception

This week in Letters and Sounds we have learnt about the consonant digraphs /ch/sh/th/ng. We practised reading and writing words and sentences containing these spelling patterns. We have all enjoyed joining up with Mrs Butler's class to share the story of Handa's Hen; we made story maps to help us to re-tell the story and a poster to help Handa to find her missing hen! Next week we will be making our own class book based on this story. We were inspired by the African-style patterns on the book and have been using them as a base for our maths work this week. The children have explored symmetrical patterns by making fold-over butterflies like the ones in the story and we have used shapes to print repeating patterns. They also used 'Colour Magic' on the computers, to create designs with 2-way and 4-way symmetry. They have been thinking about the different types of homes that people live in, from castles to caravans, tree-houses to tents.

**Interest Table:** The children have been really interested in our table this week with so many fantastic offerings. The theme will continue for another week. Do take a minute to come in and have a look if you wish!

### Years 1 & 2

This week in English we have been drawing a story map of the story Handa's Hen. Using the story map we then practised orally re-telling the story as a whole class together. We were amazed at how much detail we remembered and the addition of expressive voices made the re-telling a lot of fun.

R.E. this week has linked to our internationally themed topic of World Kitchen where we have discussed the Islamic faith with regard to prayer and dress. One member of the class was so enthusiastic he has bought his own prayer mat via the internet. He was adamant it had to have a compass attached so he knew which direction was East to make sure the mat was placed to face Mecca! Please come and look at the prayer mats we wove with our own prayers; they are on the classroom wall.

### Years 3 & 4

In year 3 and 4 the children have been writing their own water-based poems. They have been learning about Hindu re-incarnation and avatars. They took part in some lively discussion on the subject of re-incarnation and have thought hard about what they would like to come back as if they had the choice. I told them I would NOT want to come back as a Moroccan donkey!

### Years 5 & 6

*On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January the Year 6 children visited the IMPS (Injury Minimization Programme for Schools) at the Horton Hospital in Banbury. We all learnt how to save a person with "DRs' ABC". We then learnt what an AED machine was. We all practised the compressions and breaths on special dummies. Then we watched an accident film and all had finger casts put on. We walked through Accident and Emergency to a real surgery/treatment room. (Don't worry, no one was in there!) By Toby Levene*

We would like to thank Mrs Beggin (Angus' Mummy and Mrs Veale (Kitty's Mummy) for taking us there and back.

We also spent a very exciting week working out how to make three individual light bulbs work in a parallel circuit, where each bulb can be switched off individually. We learnt about the difference between parallel circuits and series circuits, and then thought about real-life applications for a parallel circuit, e.g. fairy lights and traffic lights. On Thursday morning we had a fun (and messy) time making a fully-functioning traffic light, where the lights can be turned on and off in the correct sequence. This is much trickier than it might seem! We are thinking of putting them on the Green to co-ordinate the school rush!

## Good Manners' Champion

This week our Good Manners' Champion is Jack in Year 1. Jack never needs reminding to say good morning at the gate, and he is particularly good with his pleases and thank yous! The children told us: *he always plays fun games in the playground and he lets us join in; he is always happy and smiley; he is good at saying sorry to you when you have an argument; he holds the door open.* Well done Jack; I always like seeing your cheerful face in the morning. Keep up the good manners.

## Stars of the Week

This week we say well done to our following stars:

- Reception:** Parker
- Years 1 & 2:** Elena
- Years 3 & 4:** Archie L-W
- Years 5 & 6:** Phoebe

## Club Update

Please note that there will be no Dance Club on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January.

## Swimming Gala at Chipping Norton Leisure Centre

On Wednesday, 8 children from Years 5 and 6 represented the school in the annual swimming gala. They were Alonso, Angus, Charlotte, Ella, Gus, Herbie, Isabella and Lucy. They all did very well, particularly since they have only had one swimming lesson this year, and we came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in the Small Schools' Gala. The four children who swam in the Medley Relay (Angus, Charlotte, Gus and Isabella), did particularly well, winning their heat and coming 2<sup>nd</sup> out of all 11 teams. Very well done to all of the children, who represented their school really well both in and out of the pool. Special congratulations go also to Isabella and Lucy, whose talent was spotted by members of the Four Shires Swimming Club, who ran and officiated the event.

## Swimming

A reminder that it is compulsory for children to wear hats for swimming. Please make sure that they bring a swimming hat to school each week.

## Bad Weather – Information re School Closure

In the case of bad weather, we will of course endeavour to keep the school open if at all possible. However, in the event that we do have to close the school, we will let you know via a text message and will put information on the school website at <http://www.greattewschool.co.uk/> . We will also inform BBC Radio Oxford VHF/FM 95.2 and will contact the county council, who will post information on their website <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures> .

Enjoy the weekend everyone, and see you next week.

With best wishes.

Mrs Lucy Miles